(b) NHAi follows Federation Internationale Des Ingenieurs-Conseijs (FIDIC) guidelines for contracts. As per the contract conditions, contractor is allowed to subcontract a part of a work with the permission of the "Engineer" (Supervision Consultant selected by NHAI) and Emptoyer (NHAI).

(c) and (d) Acase of subcontracting by M/s Land T-HCC (JV) beyond-approved limit has come to notice for wliich action has been initiated by NHAI.

(e) and *(f)* The principal contractor is also responsible for the work done by the subiX)ntractors. The works are tested as per the provisions of the contract b;^ the consultants.

New Road Policy

1557. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPC»RT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) v/hetlier Government are formulating a new road policy for development and manajtement of roads throughout the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) by when such a new road policy is likely to be finalised and notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Policy for development and management of National Highways is constantly reviewed b;^ the Government, to make it more effective, keeping in view the changing environment.

Smart Card based Driving Licenses

1558. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whetlier Government have decided to introduce smart-card based driving licenses/registration certificates through computerization of all transport olfices;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the amount involved in this project;

(d) whether any fund is being given to States by the Central Government for implementation of this project; and

(e) if so, the deails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (e) The Department of Road Transport and Highways have notified the specifications of smart card based driving licenses and registration certificates vide notification No. GS.R. 513(E) dated 10-8-2004. Standardized software for the purpose has been developed in consultation with National Informatics Centre (NIC) and made available to all States/Union Territories free of cost. Common specifications of smart card and related peripherals and the software would ensure its inter-operability throughout the country. An MOU had been signed by Department of Road Transport and Highways with NIC at a cost of Rs. 8.90 crores towards development of software, its testing, standardization etc.

Computerization of Transport offices in States/Union Territories is necessary for issuing a Smart Card based driving license/registration certificate. This is, however, to be done by the States/Union Territories themselves. No funds for this purpose have been given to the States by this Department.

Bypasses on National Highways

1559. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased tO state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to construct bypasses on National Highways in various parts of the country to ease traffic congestion;

(b) if so, the details of proposals being discussed for construction of bypasses. State-wise; and

(c) the details of funds earmarked for each bypass project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals for constmction of Calicut bypass on NH-17 in Kerala, Akola bypass on NH-6 in Maharashtra and Dalkola bypass on NH-34 in